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Office of the Chief Counsel
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(34)

Gentlemen:

I'm writing (regarding Rules Docket No. 28770) to request that air traffic in and around the Grand Canyon be substantially reduced, if not eliminated. I was on a 1993 whitewater trip through the canyon that was nearly ruined for all of us by the constant noise from both visible aircraft and those that were out of visual range. At times we could not carry on a normal decibel conversation because of the noise.

The Grand Canyon should be a refuge from such invasions of peace and quiet. Please consider implementing the following restrictions:

1) Permanently eliminate all flights in and around the Grand Canyon. Let people get off their rear-ends and walk for a change. If they are unwilling or unable to do a little walking, floating, or riding a mule, let them stand at the edge and wonder. I believe that aircraft are a completely invasive and unnecessary way to experience the Grand Canyon.

2) Permanently cap the number of aircraft and flights allowed to operate in the immediate vicinity of the Canyon.

3) For those aircraft allowed to operate, require the most stringent adherence to noise efficiency (ie., low decibels). It is hard to believe how far sound carries and, at times, seems to be amplified in the Canyon.

Finally, the Grand Canyon should be a place of refuge from the intrusions of noise and technology. For those who want a thrilling ride, their destination should be Disneyland.

Sincerely,

David Brown

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OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF COUNSEL